

Biographical references

Reza Khatir was born in Tehran in 1951. In 1968 he moved to London to continue his education and while at university he discovered a passion for photography. In 1976, he interrupted a career in food science to dedicate himself totally to a career in photography. He then spent a year in Paris before relocating permanently to Locarno in southern Switzerland in 1977. Having successfully completed a two year course in advanced photography in Milan, he started his professional career as a photo-reporter working on assignments for press agencies and magazines. After many journeys which equipped him with invaluable field experience, in 1981 he established his own photographic agency (SKYLITE) in Locarno. In 1986, he launched a magazine called FLAIM in Switzerland and later co-published CHIAROSCURO photo-magazine in Milan. Reza has since also published a number of art and photographic books. Between 1981 to 1992 he worked exclusively with Polaroid Films in all their formats including, and very often, the 20"x24" (50x60cm) camera. From 1992 Reza took a four year break from photography to concentrate on his writing, this long pause opened new horizons resulting in new series of photos mainly in black and white. In 1985 he was chosen as one of the 12 new Swiss photographers for Du Magazine by a jury of experts and Swiss museum curators including members of the Swiss Foundation for Photography. In 1986 he was invited to participate in the exhibition that gathered some of the most influential colour photographers worldwide to celebrate the 50th anniversary of colour photography in Köln, Germany., He was one of the international photographers in 1991, invited to participate in the exhibitions entitled "Voir la Suisse Autrement" to celebrate the 700 hundred years of the Swiss Confederation. He is also in 3 of the 5 "selections" of the Polaroid International Collection (Selections 2, Curated by Alain Sayag, curator, Centre Pompidou, Paris. Selections 3 curated by Monica Billiter, director, Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne. Selections 4 curated by Mark Haworth-Booth curator, Victoria and Albert Museum, London). Works of Reza Khatir were also included in the volume "photography 7th edition" published by Pearson Education, Prentice Hall, New Jersey, U.S.A.

In the past few years, in addition to his personal photography he is the Photo-Editor of the Swiss weekly magazine “Ticino7” and he is also professor of Photography at the faculty of Visual Communication of Lugano University (SUPSI).

(For further details about exhibitions, publications etc. please view the specific sections on his site).